



FIGHTING for PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

## The Farm to Food Bank Reauthorization Act

*U.S. Senator Bob Casey*

In 2018, the Farm Bill amended the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) to pay for projects to harvest, process, package, or transport food donated by agricultural producers, processors, or distributors for use by emergency feeding organizations. This program known as The Farm to Food Bank Act was created to help reduce food waste at all levels of the agricultural system by promoting the donation and selling of excess food. Between 2022 and 2023, the Feeding America food bank network distributed over 900 million pounds of TEFAP foods, providing over [700 million meals to people facing hunger](#).

In Pennsylvania, Farm to Food Bank project funds were used to continue the existing [Pennsylvania Agricultural Surplus System \(PASS\)](#) program. PASS has provided a way for Pennsylvanian farmers to donate food products while also be reimbursed for the costs involved in harvesting, packaging, processing, and transporting. Furthermore, PASS has avoided mass food waste from these food products that would have otherwise been left to rot, plowed, or dumped. As grocery prices are increasing, nutrition and agricultural programs that help both consumers and producer make ends meet and avoid preventable food waste is vital. The Farm to Food Bank Reauthorization Act would extend and expand funding for the Farm to Food Bank program in the upcoming Farm Bill.

### The Farm to Food Bank Reauthorization Act

The Farm to Food Bank Reauthorization Act would extend the Farm to Food Bank program and make changes to increase the flexibility and feasibility of the program. Specifically, this bill would:

- **Extend the Farm to Food Bank program** through 2029.
- **Double the funding** for the Farm to Food Bank program to \$8 million each fiscal year from 2024 to 2029.
- **Adds flexibility to the Farm to Food Bank procurement rules**, allowing food to be donated, sold, or provided to food banks.
- **Reduce the burden placed on states** by decreasing the state match requirement from 50 percent to 25 percent.